

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 OES-07
OMB-01 INT-05 /092 R

DRAFTED BY EA/EP:DMCCONVILLE:SRP

APPROVED BY D - MR. CHRISTOPHER

D:SOXMAN

EB/IFD:FNASH (DRAFT)

HA:OJONES (DRAFT)

EA/RA:RMARTENS (DRAFT)

TREASURY:DKLINGENSMITH (DRAFT)

EA/ROK:DBLAKEMORE (DRAFT)

EA:WGLEYSTEEN

-----111625 210310Z /41

O 210126Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303626

SEOUL FOR AMB. SNEIDER; MANILA FOR AMB. EDMOND, USADB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, EFIN, SHUM

SUBJECT: ADB CONSIDERATION OF A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
GRANT TO KOREA FOR MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

REFS: A) MANILA 19637; B) STATE 275284; C) STATE 258645

1. AS INDICATED IN REF. A, A PROPOSED ADB 162,000 DOLLARS
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO KOREA FOR MINERAL RESOURCES
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DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN PLACED BACK ON THE ADB BOARD AGENDA
FOR DECEMBER 22. THE KOREAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAD
PREVIOUSLY WITHDRAWN THIS ITEM FROM THE ADB BOARD AGENDA
FOR NOVEMBER 22 ON LEARNING THAT WE INTENDED TO ABSTAIN
IF THE GRANT CAME UP FOR CONSIDERATION AT THAT TIME
(REF. B). FOLLOWING FURTHER REVIEW, OUR
EARLIER DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON THIS GRANT WAS REAFFIRMED.

2. TREASURY IS INSTRUCTING THE US EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED) BY SEPARATE CHANNEL. HE WILL NOT MAKE A STATEMENT EXPLAINING OUR ABSTENTION AT THE BOARD MEETING, BUT WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A LOW-KEY EXPLANATION TO THE BANK'S MANAGEMENT AND KEY DIRECTORS.

3. THE BASIS FOR OUR ABSTENTION IS THE SAME AS FOR OUR ABSTENTION ON THE ASAN BAY POWER LOAN AS DESCRIBED REF. C.

THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ALERT THE ROKG OF OUR INTENTION TO ABSTAIN ON THIS GRANT, DRAWING ON THE BACKGROUND PROVIDED IN REF. C, AS NECESSARY, TO EXPLAIN OUR ACTION.

4. IF ROKG OFFICIALS RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHY WE VOTED FOR TWO RECENT IBRD AND ADB LOANS (THE OGSEO AREA DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND THE PROVINCIAL WATER DEVELOPMENT LOAN), BUT ARE ABSTAINING AGAIN ON THIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT, THE EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT IN PURSUING OUR POLICY OF EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE ALSO GAVE CONSIDERATION TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROPOSED ASSISTANCE OR OTHER ACTIONS ARE DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY TO PROGRAMS WHICH SERVE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, A COURSE SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED IN PERTINENT LEGISLATION.

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5. FYI: THE DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON THIS GRANT WAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE SITUATION OF US-KOREAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND THE DEFINITIONS THAT ARE BEING APPLIED, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD ABSTAIN AT THIS TIME IN THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE GROUNDS TO CONSTRUE THE GRANT AS BEING DIRECTED AT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. VANCE

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